

Charleston County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Ultimate survival of our society
- Quality of life impacts everything
- Biggest issue facing this community is to get every child educated
- More meaningful employment
- Higher standards of living
- Empowerment
- Healthy community
- More informed constituents and better decision makers
- Philosophical shift
- % public and % of private collaboration
- Too much emphasis on test scores
- Teaching to the test
- Recognize good curriculum standards
- Want all students graduating from high school

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Strong leadership and instructional staff in all schools - if move principal from successful schools – ability to move staff
- Teachers to teach the standards
- Uniform grading scale
- School board needs to be expanded
- Additional contract days for teachers to allow for more time and resources for professional development
- Smaller schools/smaller classrooms/cluster programs
- Mentoring and Career Education Programs that make learning real
- Include diverse curriculum that includes all students benefiting
- Adequate funding
- Parent training resource centers
- Community wide commitment
- Use methods and strategies of successful schools and school district
- Partnership achieving schools with low achieving schools
- Identify mentors for every student in grade school – commitment to every child
- Comprehensive Resource Guide
- Community Bulletin Board
- Engage retirement community

Challenges:

- Lack of funding for innovative programs
- PACT does not have a diagnostic component – needs to be comprehensive and diagnostic
- Communicate more effectively about resources and better coordination
- Drop off of achievement in high school success

- No long term data on PACT – do students who score well on test do well later in life?
- Rural communities predominately African American community - ? related – continuity
- In pushing in top of SAT – parents not interested to taking advanced courses
- Reward system
- CD/honors penalized for AP/IB
- Qualification of principals – how do we ensure those leading schools are qualified – more than certification - quality of skills and ability to lead.
- How do you get around focus in family – finding out how you do research in what is needed
- Eliminating the drop out rate
- Increase parent and business involvement
- Principals need an incentive for having students with special needs

Strengths

- Build link with colleges to improve school and community support – there should be a course for teachers like the one Salkahatchie that serves Allendale teachers.
- Success by Six – trying to get National Accreditation for Early Childhood program
- Communities in Schools program (needs more support from the school district)
- Promise Alliance – commitment makers

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Communities in Schools having impact in middle schools
- Middle school certification climbing up
- Defining what is a learning community

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- School district needs to have contact with every family of newborns introducing all services available to them before each child reaches school age
- Need to disseminate information about available resources